GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4264
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Silk Industry
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian silk industry is one of the largest generators of employment and foreign exchange for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of employment and foreign exchange generated by the Indian Silk Industry during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government is aware that Indian silk farmers are badly affected due to decrease in price of cocoons during the recent years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The employment generation under silk sector and foreign exchange earnings from export of silk and silk goods by the country during the last three years are given below:-

Year Cumulative Employment Generation(Lakh Persons) * % of population employed in sericulture with respect to working age population Export Earnings(Crore Rs.)
** % share of Silk Exports over Total Exports

2013-14 78.50 0.99 2480.89 0.13

2014-15 80.30 1.01 2829.88 0.15

2015-16 82.50 1.01 2495.99 0.15

*Source: www.censusindia.gov.in/vital_statistics
** Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Silk Cocoons being an agricultural based commodity, a number of factor such as climate (rainfall, drought etc.), pest and disease incidences (which affect the production and quality of cocoon), demand for silk products, international prices of silk etc. affect the cocoon prices. But the price fall is generally for a short period only. During July 2015, there was a fall in cocoon prices due to a combination of several reasons such as fall of raw silk prices in the international market, slow movement of raw silk in the domestic market, quantum jump in the arrivals of cocoons to the market. However, the cocoon prices during 2016-17 have recovered very well and at present the farmers are getting higher prices for their produce compared to earlier years. The price is higher than the cost of production and the farmers are getting good profit.

The major Sericulture States namely, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh provide price support incentive for the growers to mitigate the loss incurred due to price crash. The Government of India is also providing support for establishment of Multi-end Reeling Units and Automatic Reeling Machines in the country to create better market avenues for cocoons so as to stabilize the price of cocoons.
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